

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08542 161726Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----009287 161732Z /41
R 161717Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6811

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STADIS//////////

EXDIS FOR DPTY UNSECY FOR MANAGEMENT FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: MODE-EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS
- BY CHIEF OF MISSION
REF: (A) STATE 066110, (B) CAIRO 19423

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF (A), I HAVE REVIEWED THE INTER-
VENING DEVELOPMENTS SINCE REF (B) WAS SENT AND CONCLUDE
THAT I HAVE NO ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUBMIT.

2. AS THE RECORD OF MY MESSAGES (CAIRO 14200, CAIRO
11131, AND REF (B)) MAKES CLEAR, THE MAJOR MODE-IMPACT
IN THIS EMBASSY IS OCCURRING IN THE AID STRENGTH, WHICH
IS STILL BEING STAFFED TO HANDLE THE SUBSTANTIAL AID-
ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. I PERSONALLY REVIEWED EACH REQUEST
WITH AID DIRECTOR BROWN AND HAVE BEEN CONVINCED OF THE
NECESSITY FOR EACH OF THOSE WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED TO
DATE.

3. THE NET OF THESE REVIEWS IS THAT PROPOSALS FOR FOUR
ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN FY 1978 ARE BEING APPROVED BY
AID/W AND AN ADDITIONAL SIX POSITIONS FOR FY 1979 ARE
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UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE AID DIRECTOR HAS DONE SOME
REPROGRAMMING TO HOLD THESE REQUESTS TO THE ABSOLUTE
MINIMUM, BUT THE INCREASES REQUESTED ARE FULLY WARRANTED,
IN MY VIEW, IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE THE CONTROL AND STEWARD-
SHIP OF THE LARGE AID PROGRAM EXPECTED OF US BY THE
DEPARTMENT AND THE CONGRESS.

4. THE IMPACT OF THESE INCREASES ON THE LEVEL OF STAFFING OF THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION IS OBVIOUS. RECENTLY, IN CAIRO 07058, WE ASKED FOR TWO ADDITIONAL C&R OFFICERS TO PERMIT US TO COVER COMMUNICATIONS 24 HOURS PER DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. AID OPERATIONS HAVE MATERIALLY INCREASED THE TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, AS HAVE OTHER ASSISTANCE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND SCIENTIFIC-INTERCHANGE. TO THIS MUST BE ADDED THE TRAFFIC GENERATED BY THE PEACE INITIATIVES AND SHUTTLE-DIPLOMACY. BECAUSE WE ARE NOT COVERED 24 HOURS AND WITH SOME RECURRING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS RELATING TO TERP AND THE ATS IN WASHINGTON, WE HAVE COME DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO SOME FAILURES TO COMMUNICATE WHICH COULD HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE PEACE-SEEKING EFFORTS. WE SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO SUSTAIN SUCH RISKS.

5. THE OTHER AREA I AM KEEPING UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY IS SCIENTIFIC INTERCHANGE. THE AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS FOREIGN CURRENCIES (AS LONG AS THEY LAST) TEMPTS THE U.S. AGENCIES IN THE HEALTH AND WELFARE AREAS TO GENERATE STUDY-GROUPS, INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, AND SUBSTANTIAL GRANTS. THE GOE IS AWARE OF THE LEVEL OF THESE CURRENT EFFORTS AND, IN COOPERATION WITH OUR SCIENCE ATTACHE, IS REASSESSING WHAT IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AND ENDEAVORING TO IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE PRIORITIES FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMMEDIATE FUTURE. GENERALLY THESE ARE PROGRAMS WHICH WILL BENEFIT EGYPT AS WELL AS U.S. AND THUS SUPPORT OUR OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES. THEY USUALLY RESULT IN SHORT-TERM TDY ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN STAFFING INCREASES BUT AGAIN THEY IMPACT ON THE JAO. B&F HAS GRANTS TO ACCOUNT FOR, EXCESS CURRENCY TDY ADVANCES TO ISSUE, ETC., AND OUR TRAVEL SECTION HAS AIRPORT-ASSISTANCE AND SOME CUSTOMS-CLEARANCES TO RENDER, HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND ONWARD TRANSPORTATION TO ARRANGE, ETC.

6. IN ALL CANDOR, I FORESEE THAT INVOLVEMENT IN ME PEACE PROCESS, BILATERAL AID ASSISTANCE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS, AND SCIENTIFIC-INTERCHANGE WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN THE SHORT-TERM OF THE NEXT 3/5 FISCAL YEARS, BARRING OF COURSE A MAJOR AND TOTALLY UNANTICIPATED ADVERSITY EFFECTING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH EGYPT. THUS, WE CANNOT REASONABLY EXPECT REDUCTIONS IN USG STAFFING REQUIREMENTS IN CAIRO WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO HIGH PRIORITY PROGRAMS. THIS MESSAGE HOPEFULLY EXPLAINS WHY AND PERHAPS OFFERS SOME USEFUL MATERIAL IN YOUR PRESSING THE VARIOUS AGENCIES FOR TRADE-OFFS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR REQUESTED INCREASES. EILTS

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